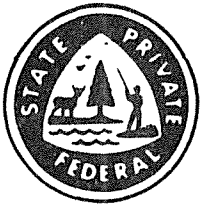


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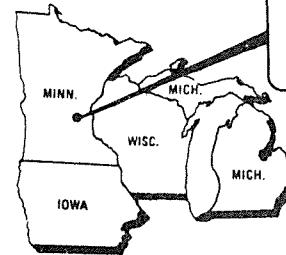
*Northeastern Area
State & Private Forestry*

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Rpt. No. S-72-2

June, 1972

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DISTRIBUTION OF "DEERSKIN DROOP"
IN THE LAKE STATES (1971)
June, 1972

James T. O'Brien

In 1959 foresters discovered a malady affecting red pine on the Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. This affliction, which is characterized by a drooping of the needles, was first found in stands along the Deerskin River, hence the name "Deerskin droop". The affliction kills the current shoots about mid-July, usually causing a drooping of the needles and, sometimes, a drooping of the shoot as well. It is suspected that "Deerskin droop" is a disease, caused by a fungus, but this has not been proven. Pathogenicity tests with the suspect fungus are being conducted. An evaluation of the degree of damage is also underway. It is already known that in affected stands, small trees, and probably large trees (Figure I) are eventually killed as a result of the progressive loss of shoots.

By 1970 "Deerskin droop" had been found in fourteen areas on the Nicolet and in stands on the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan and the Superior National Forest and the Nett Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota (O'Brien and

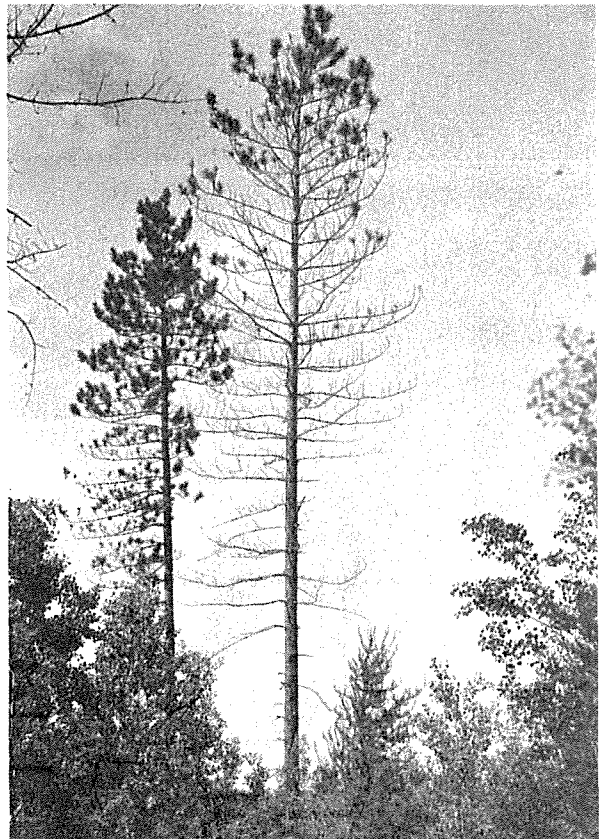


Figure I. Red Pine affected with "Deerskin droop".



Erickson, 1971). In 1971, forest land managers, entomologists and pathologists in the Lake States were asked specifically to report any other known occurrences. Several additional areas on the Superior were reported, as were plantations on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation and the Northern Highland State Forest, both in Wisconsin.

It is difficult to determine how many acres of red pine are affected by this problem. "Deerskin droop" often occurs in small stands scattered over large areas. Estimates are 3000-5000 acres on the Superior National Forest, 3000 acres on the Nett Lake Indian Reservation, and 100 acres on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation; 5000-8000 acres on the Nicolet National Forest; 100 acres on the Ottawa National Forest; and 100 acres on the Northern Highland State Forest. Generalized locations of stands having the affliction are shown in Figure II.

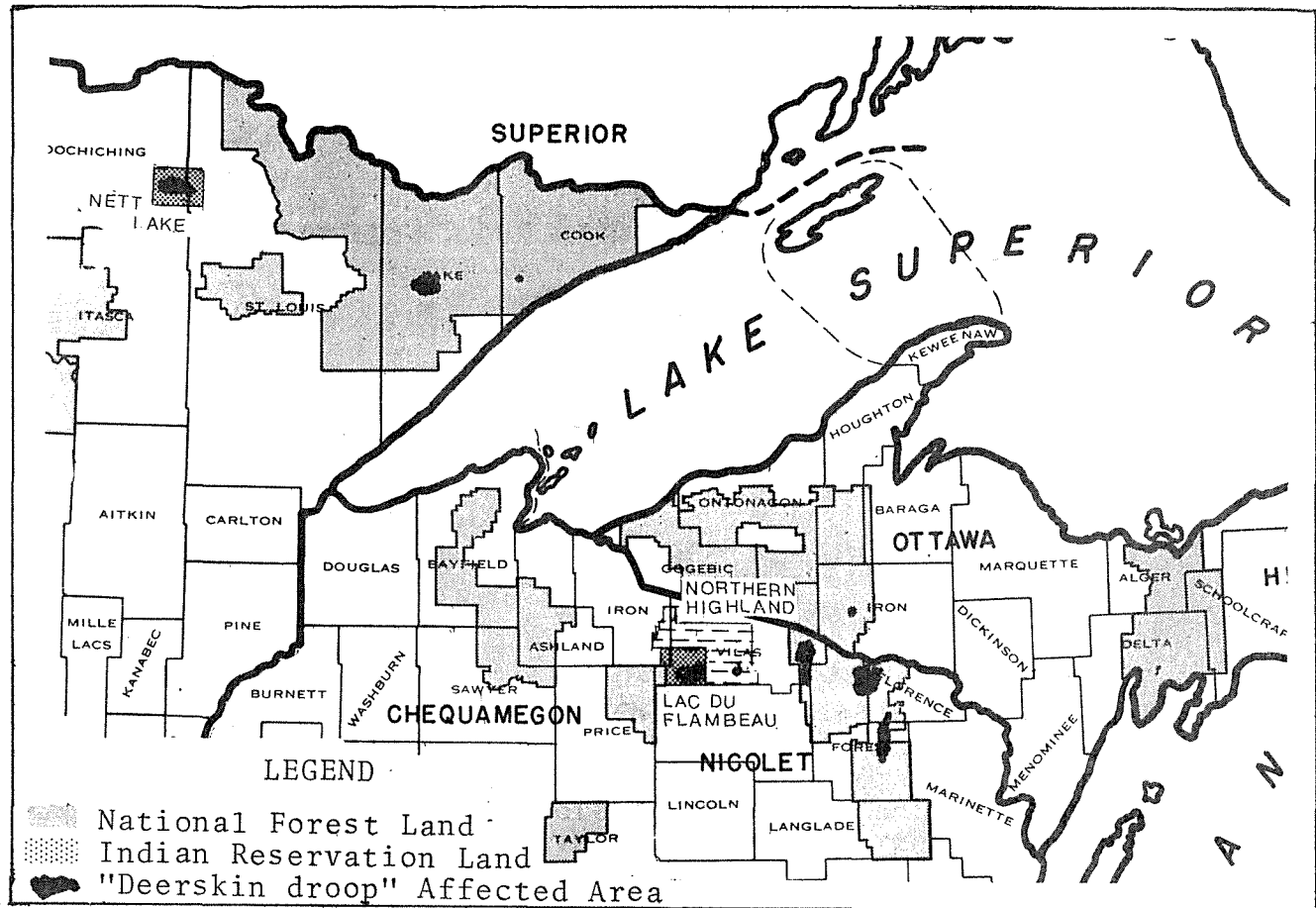


Figure II. Distribution of "Deerskin droop", 1971.

REFERENCES

O'Brien, J.T. and Glen Erickson. 1971. Survey for "Deerskin Droop" of Red Pine on the Nicolet National Forest. USDA, Forest Service, NA S&PF, Report S-71-7 (Available from the St. Paul Field Office).